

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (withdrawn): An apparatus for applying a lubrication layer onto hard disks, comprising:
2 a lubrication tank being adapted to hold a lubricant bath;
3 a disk holding means being adapted to hold a plurality of hard disks, each said hard disk
4 being disposed at a corresponding location along a length of said disk holding means; and
5 a plurality of projecting members, each said projecting member being disposed within
6 said tank and adapted to be disposed between an adjacent pair of said plurality of hard disks, to
7 interrupt a substantial portion of surface waves of said lubricant bath that travel between said
8 adjacent pair of hard disks.

1 2. (withdrawn): An apparatus for applying a lubrication layer onto hard disks as described
2 in claim 1, wherein each of said projecting members are disposed at the surface of said lubricant
3 bath.

1 3. (withdrawn): An apparatus for applying a lubrication layer onto hard disks as described
2 in claim 1, wherein said plurality of projecting members are integrally formed within a bath
3 cover that is disposed to position said projecting members at a surface of said lubricant bath.

4 4. (withdrawn): An apparatus for applying a lubrication layer onto hard disks as described
5 in claim 3, wherein said bath cover comprises a generally rectangular integrally formed member

6 having a central mandrel passage slot formed therethrough and a plurality of disk passage slots
7 formed therethrough generally perpendicularly to said mandrel passage slot.

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9 5. (withdrawn): An apparatus for applying a lubrication layer onto hard disks as described
10 in claim 1 wherein said projecting members include side surfaces for making contact with said
11 surface waves, and wherein said side surfaces are irregularly shaped to diminish reflection of
12 said surface waves from said projecting members.

1 6. (withdrawn): An apparatus for applying a lubrication layer onto hard disks as described
2 in claim 1 wherein said projecting members include side surfaces for making contact with said
3 surface waves, and wherein said side surfaces are formed of a porous material to diminish
4 reflection of said surface waves from said projecting members.

1 7. (withdrawn): A hard disk, comprising:
2 an outer surface of the hard disk;
3 a lubrication layer being disposed on said outer surface, wherein said lubrication layer is
4 substantially free of thickness variations caused by surface waves.

1 8. (withdrawn): A hard disk as described in claim 7, wherein said lubrication layer is
2 formed by a process comprising:
3 lowering a plurality of hard disks into a lubricant bath;
4 removing said hard disks from the lubricant bath; and
5 substantially intercepting surface waves within said lubricant bath, said intercepting of
6 said surface waves occurring before said surface waves reach another of said hard disks.

1 9. (withdrawn): A hard disk as described in claim 8 wherein said substantially intercepting
2 of said surface waves is accomplished by disposing a wave intercepting member upon said
3 surface of said lubricant bath between adjacent ones of said plurality of hard disks.

1 10. (withdrawn): A hard disk as described in claim 9, wherein said wave intercepting
2 member includes a plurality of projecting members that are integrally formed within a bath cover
3 that is disposed to position said projecting members at said surface of said lubricant bath.

4 11. (withdrawn): A hard disk as described in claim 10, wherein said bath cover comprises a
5 generally rectangular member having a central mandrel passage slot formed therethrough and a
6 plurality of disk passage slots formed therethrough generally perpendicularly to said mandrel
7 passage slot.

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9 12. (withdrawn): A hard disk as described in claim 10 wherein said projecting members
10 include side surfaces for making contact with said surface waves, and wherein said side surfaces
11 are irregularly shaped to diminish reflection of said surface waves from said projecting members.

1 13. (withdrawn): A hard disk as described in claim 10 wherein said projecting members
2 include side surfaces for making contact with said surface waves, and wherein said side surfaces
3 are formed of a porous material to diminish reflection of said surface waves from said projecting
4 members.

1 14. (currently amended): A process for applying a lubrication layer onto an outer surface of
2 a hard disk, comprising:

3 lowering a plurality of hard disks into a lubricant bath;

4 removing said hard disks from the lubricant bath; and

5 substantially intercepting surface waves within said lubricant bath at all times during the
6 removing of said hard disks from the lubricant bath, said intercepting of said surface waves
7 occurring before said surface waves generated at a surface of one said hard disk reach another of
8 said hard disks.

1 15. (currently amended): A process for applying a lubrication layer onto an outer surface of
2 a hard disk as described in claim 14 wherein said substantially intercepting of said surface waves
3 is accomplished by disposing a wave intercepting member upon said surface of said lubricant
4 bath between adjacent ones of said plurality of hard disks at all times during the lowering of the
5 hard disks into the lubricant bath, and at all times during the removing of said hard disks from
6 the lubricant bath.

1 16. (original): A process for applying a lubrication layer onto an outer surface of a hard disk
2 as described in claim 15, wherein said wave intercepting member includes a plurality of
3 projecting members that are integrally formed within a bath cover that is disposed to position
4 said projecting members at said surface of said lubricant bath.

5 17. (original): A process for applying a lubrication layer onto an outer surface of a hard disk
6 as described in claim 16, wherein said bath cover comprises a generally rectangular member
7 being defined by outer edges thereof, and having a central mandrel passage slot formed

8 therethrough and a plurality of disk passage slots formed generally perpendicularly to said
9 mandrel passage slot.

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11 18. (original): A process for applying a lubrication layer onto an outer surface of a hard disk
12 as described in claim 16 wherein said projecting members include side surfaces for making
13 contact with said surface waves, and wherein said side surfaces are irregularly shaped to
14 diminish reflection of said surface waves from said projecting members.

15 19. (original): A process for applying a lubrication layer onto an outer surface of a hard disk
16 as described in claim 16 wherein said projecting members include side surfaces for making
17 contact with said surface waves, and wherein said side surfaces are formed of a porous material
18 to diminish reflection of said surface waves from said projecting members.